

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

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R 191255Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ELAB, FR

SUBJECT: MARSEILLE BUSINESS LEADER DEPLORES ECONOMIC "STAGNATION"
IN PROVENCE

1. PIERRE TERRIN, PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION,
VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MARSEILLE AND DIRECTOR
OF ATELIERS TERRIN (SHIP REPAIR) THIS WEEK STATED THAT REGIONAL
ECONOMY HAD ENTERED PERIOD OF " STAGNATION". SPEAKING FEBRUARY
17 IN PRESS INTERVIEW THAT HAS HAD WIDE PRESS AND TELEVISION
COVERAGE, TERRIN SAID ECONOMIC SITUATION IN 1974 HAD BEEN GLOOMY
BUT THAT SITUATION WAS MUCH WORSE IF 1976. HE SAID MOST SERIOUS
PROBLEM WAS UNEMPLOYMENT WITH 92,800 JOB APPLICATIONS UNFILLED
WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT TECHNICAL UNEMPLOYMENT, COMPULSORY
LOCKOUTS ETC. HE UNDERLINED THAT PSYCHOSIS OF UNEMPLOYMENT HAD
AFFECTED CONSUMER BUYING AND INVSTMENT.

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2. TERRIN SINGLED OUT " DUMPING " OF ITALIAN PRODUCTS DUE TO

LOW VALUE OF LIRA, DETERIORATION OF FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS,
AND " SOCIAL PROBLEMS " AS PRIME CONTRIBUTORS TO PRESENT CRISIS.
HE REVEALED THAT, OF SIX NEW SHIPPING LINES PLANNING TO USE
MARSEILLE-FOS PORT COMPLEX FOLLOWING REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL,
FOUR HAVE CHANGED PLANS AND SOUGHT OTHER MEDITERRANEAN PORTS
PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF LABOR UNREST AND UNCERTAINTY OF PORT
SERVICES.

3. COMMENT: TERRIN IS REALIST WHO HAS BEEN AWARE OF WORSENING
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR SOME TIME. FACT THAT HE HAS NOW SPOKEN
OUT PUBLICLY EMPHASIZES SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION. SIMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PROVINCE, UNEMPLOYMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MARSEI00070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760063-0505
From: MARSEILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760235/aaaabekq.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARSEILLE BUSINESS LEADER DEPLORES ECONOMIC "STAGNATION" IN PROVENCE
TAGS: ECON, ELAB, FR, (TERRIN, PIERRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006